

The Labor Advocate

A PAPER FOR ALL WHO TOIL

Official Organ of
The Building Trades Council
of Cincinnati and Vicinity
ISSUED WEEKLY

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WELL MERITED REBUKE.

Joseph A. Cullen, president of the Cincinnati Building Trades Council, took a stand on the neutrality question, at the meeting of the Central Labor Council Tuesday night, that is far more illuminating than his brief but decidedly pointed remarks appear to be on the surface.

Mr. Cullen took the floor in a debate on the proposal of a delegate from the Labor National Peace Council, George W. Bope, of Columbus. Mr. Bope had submitted a resolution declaring that as a means of observing strict neutrality in the European war, the United States Government should take over and operate all plants engaged in the manufacture of arms and war munitions and decline to sell any of the output to belligerents.

In the course of the debate, a delegate from the Typographical Union opposed the resolution, but said he was in favor of a strict embargo on arms and munitions. He concluded his remarks by saying that while he was born under the British flag, he was in favor of the German cause. It was this last remark that aroused President Cullen, who said:

"That will do. I'm here as a delegate and citizen and I have my army record, too, as one of the soldiers of this country, and when any man tells me he was born under the English flag and that he favors the Germans I don't want to hear any more about neutrality from him. I move to lay this whole business on the table."

Mr. Cullen realizes, as all other close observers do, that all this talk of neutrality comes from pro-German sources. Were the ports of Germany open to receive shipments of war munitions and other needed articles, as are the ports of the allies, this talk of an embargo on arms and war munitions would never have been heard of. If Germany will open her ports to the commerce of the world, she will receive the same identical treatment from neutral nations that the allies are receiving and will be sold anything she wants and has the money to pay for.

So long as the German ports are hermetically sealed by the British fleet, just so long may America expect to be charged

with unneutral acts in trading with the allies. As a soldier, who has faced fire under the flag of his country, Mr. Cullen was justly incensed to hear a Briton openly proclaim that he had renounced allegiance to the flag of his birth and was "rooting" for its enemies.

The trouble with the Labor National Peace Party, as with other organizations which are formed for purposes of futile agitation, it is decidedly short on its knowledge of history and international law. As a matter of fact and law, the United States has no right to refuse to sell arms and munitions to belligerent countries, and it would be a near-sighted policy to do so even though it had the right.

One has only to revert to our own country in 1898, when the Spanish-American war broke out. No sooner was war declared than this government was frantically scouring the world for arms and munitions. What would have been our plight had we not been able to secure these supplies? What would be our plight now, should we become involved in war? We haven't enough arms and ammunition to last two months and no facilities for making them in the quantities in which they would be required.

Treaties between civilized nations for the last 250 years have contained clauses dealing with the furnishing of arms and munitions in case of war, and there are such treaties now in existence between our country and all of those engaged in the present war.

Partisans of Germany have no just cause for complaint over our shipping war munitions to England. The German government, which understands the situation, has made no complaint. It merely reserves the right to seize such shipments whenever it can, and that right is guaranteed it by all rules of international law.

"YOURS TRULY, JOHN L."

To the Anti-Saloon League, meeting in Atlantic City, John L. Sullivan wires: "I refuse to appear on any platform where Gen. Nelson A. Miles has strutted. The referee's decision is with me. Let us call it quits."

Thus ends the gentle and joyous passage of arms which began when Gen. Miles objected to appearing on the same platform with Mr. Sullivan and which the diplomats of the league fancied they had avoided by having Gen. Miles speak on Wednesday, Mr. Sullivan on Friday.

The league is the poorer by not hearing Mr. Sullivan explain that Corbett never asked him, repeat the immortal remark that "booze done it," and describe the titanic battles since engaged in by John Lawrence and John Barleycorn.

The referee, poor fellow, has heavier troubles. Shall he call a foul on the old ring "champeen"

for impolitely alluding to Gen. Miles's martial mien as a "strut" or award the bout to him on points for ring strategy and capacity to take and give punishment? Whatever the official decision may be, many ringside critics will agree that "Yours truly, John L." still has his punch.

PROPOSE REFERENDUM ON SEAMEN'S BILL

Washington.—Trades unionists have had the notion that a referendum afforded opportunity for the presentation of both sides of a question. This has been somewhat modified in the announcement by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States that this organization will hold a referendum on the seamen's bill.

The chamber intimates that the following plan, if adopted by affiliated organizations, will be considered an expression of opinion and at the same time dispense with any consideration of the subject by individual members.

"A popular method, which commends itself highly as providing a means for practical expression, is that of referring the referendum pamphlet to a special committee which, in turn, prepares its report and recommendations as to voting. This is then submitted to the entire membership."

This scheme eliminates thinking or study by the membership, and a complete vote is the easiest thing imaginable.

That every possible force may be arrayed against the seamen's bill when the next Congress assembles, the Chamber of Commerce ends its announcement with this statement:

"It is hoped that the result may be known well in advance of the present date set for the convening of Congress."

The Living Standard of Wages

W. D. Mahon, president of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America, and one of the foremost labor leaders of the country, made the following observations in the course of the arbitration proceedings between the Chicago street railway companies and their employees. Mr. Mahon said:

"I have heard it argued since I have been in this arbitration that it is a very difficult thing to establish proper living conditions, because of men's different desires and wants, but that is not true. In my opinion, taking the family of five as the basis that is given by the government, for the family of five a man should have a comfortable home of at least five rooms; one room for the female children and one for the male children, if there are such in the family of five; that there be a bedroom for the wife and husband; two living rooms; a bathroom with all of the reasonable modern conveniences of a home for the benefit of the family. There should be carpets and rugs on the floor; there should be pictures upon the wall; there should be music in the home.

"There is nothing more inspiring to a higher and better life, in my opinion, than music, and there should be music in the home. There should be books; Ingersoll said that a bookcase was an arsenal and that if we could establish more of them in the homes there would be less prisons, and I believe it. There should be wholesome food for the family; there should be a wage to enable the worker to keep his children at home and in school until they reach at least 18 years of age, so that they could be properly educated and equipped for life. The family should be so surrounded that they could enjoy some of the amusements and entertainments of life; they should be enabled to go to a theater and get some of the ideas of a higher and better life. They should have respectable clothing, that they could go out to these entertainments, to church and to school.

"In my opinion, one of the things that is doing more harm in the world today than anything else is the fact that there is not a wage sufficient to enable the parent to properly clothe and equip his children. Children are kept from the school today and from the church and Sunday school because of their clothes and conditions, and that, in my opinion, and from my observation, is doing more to demoralize and drive the children away on the downward road than anything else can do, and due to the fact that there is not a sufficient wage to enable the father to properly support and care for the children.

"Our juvenile courts and institutions in their reports all reflect that very strongly, that the children that come under their care and direction are the children of parents who have to neglect them; the mothers neglect them to become themselves breadwinners, to help support the family, go out to work and neglect the children and leave them to grow up at home alone, and the environment that they are placed under makes them ashamed to go to school and to church and other places, and that is one of the things that is doing more to demoralize the society of the world today, in my opinion, than any other thing, and my opinion is that there should be a wage to overcome that and to place every workman in that position.

"I know it will be argued that all won't do that, but thousands today would be glad of the opportunity to do it, and would do it, and that is my notion of a living wage. I could never bring myself to believe that the only thing that a man was created for was to work, simply to toil in order to exist. I think he would be better off if he would die right quick than to have to continue under that condition merely to exist. As some of our Socialist friends put it, that all he is here for is to propagate his species and then pass away."

John Street Uplifters Peeved By Central Ave. Promoters

Vigorously Protest Against Movement to Change Name of John Street Cars to Central Avenue Cars and Threaten Retaliation by Not Patronizing the Latter Thoroughfare's Numerous Saloons.

"I view with alarm and regret the action of our neighbor, the Central Avenue Improvement Association, in trying to have the name of the John Street cars changed to Central avenue cars," said President Erastus Jobusing of the John Street Improvement, Welfare and General Do-Your-Neighbor-Good Association, at its regular weekly meeting Friday night.

"We all have lived in peace so far with our neighbors to the east, but we all can't do the lion and the lamb act and lie down with Central avenue, with us inside, like the lamb. If we are going to hold our proud position in the great sisterhood of streets we must fight for our rights."

"I was hoping that this pair of town would escape the wail of streets that has been engain' in our fair city for many years. Main street merchants have been scarpin' with Walnut and Vine; Fourth street has a feud with Fifth, and George with Longworth for the business each of them is engaged in, and I must say for George and Longworth that they are less bittah in their warfare than the othah belligerents. They have used no asphyxiating gas, but have confined themselves to the quality and appearance of the principal commodity they have to sell.

Ready to Fight.

"We all could look with composure on the battle of the other improvement associations and remain neutral so long as they did not try to torpedo us with their submarines. But when our neighbor, Central avenue, tries to steal any of our glory, then we fight."

"What right has that bunch of pawnbrokers and secondhand dealers on Central avenue to try to steal the name of our cars? Who wants to go on Central avenue when he can get to John street?"

"We all are not jealous of Central avenue. We should like to see it prosper. An' we ain't jealous of Main street, nor Vine nor Fourth. No one ever heard of us tearin' down no dinky little ole bridge and makin' a national holiday out of the event, like the Main street merchants did a short time ago. We all ain't tryin' to hog the ring an' yappin' about havin' the best street and the best bargains in town. There is othah good streets in town besides our own. But we ain't goin' to let no bunch of Central avenue Dutch and Jews get the best of us niggahs without a scrap."

"We all has spent our time—much of it in jail—and our money—much of it in fines—to make John street populah and widely known, an' we ain't a goin'

to let no Central avenue snatch the laurel from our civic brow and slap a crown of thorns on our heads.

Had No Nolte Case.

"Of co'se, we all ain't had no Nolte case to give us publicity by keepin' our name in the papahs for days at a time. When we all takes a shot at some bad niggah and sends him to the morgue, the papahs gives us a measly little ole paragraph and forgets us. But Central avenue pulls off a murder and gets nation wide advertisin'. Now it wants to steal the name of our car line.

"Central avenue can come ovah heah and beat us shootin' craps, if it can; it can steal our wives, if it wants 'em; it can take our trade away from us, if it has any John Wanamakers ovah there who thinks they can do it, but when it tries to take the immortal name of John street off the street cars, then we adopt the tactics of the other leadin' merchant's associations and fights for all we can get.

"Central avenue should be satisfied with what it gets from John street. It gets a large part of our trade, as it is, as it has more saloons than we have. But if it persists in tryin' to steal our car line, then it is time to declare a boycott and keep out of our neighbor's saloons.

"The John Street Improvement Association has done mo' to advertise our street than any othah thing evah started

down heah, and what we all must do in this crisis which faces us is to stand shoulder to shoulder, with our feet firmly planted on the bar railin' and out-talk Central avenue.

"Gentlemen, let no opportunity pass to talk John street. Tell of its beauty, its culture, its unsurpassed trading facilities, its desirability as a residence street. An' when you have run out of arguments in our favor, take a wallop at Central avenue."

TELEPHONE WORKERS STRIKE.

Rochester, N. Y.—Members of the Electrical Workers' union employed by the Home Telephone company are on strike. The company recently discharged several women employees because they favored organization. The company's refusal to reinstate these workers forced the walkout.

McEWEN NOT MARRIED

In the issue of June 26, The Labor Advocate stated that Thomas McEwen, business agent of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers No. 44, had been married on June 9 to Mrs. Mary E. Kelly, by the Rev. H. Haefner at the parsonage, No. 27 E. Ninth street. The Labor Advocate has since been assured by Mr. McEwen that no such ceremony was performed and that he is not married.

The Labor Advocate printed this alleged news on what it considered unquestioned authority, and did not doubt the authenticity of its information until so informed by Mr. McEwen. It seems that some persons with a misdirected sense of humor, trusting to their close connection with The Labor Advocate, made this paper an innocent party to what they conceived to be a joke on Mr. McEwen.



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